



LINDA A. KELLEHER, CMC
CITY CLERK

CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

READING LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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READING, PA 19601-3690
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March 6, 2009

Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Director, Office of Economic Adjustment
400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Reading Navy Marine Reserve Center Redevelopment Plan

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

The Reading Local Redevelopment Authority respectfully requests an extension regarding the deadline to submit the redevelopment plan to HUD and DoD related to the Navy Marine Reserve Center located at 615 Kenhorst Boulevard, Reading, Pa. Our request is to extend the deadline from March 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

The Reading LRA has been very proactive after succeeding the Berks County Local Redevelopment Authority last May, including making application for a federal grant for a redevelopment consultant, completing a lengthy RFP process to find a consultant experienced in BRAC projects, holding a public meeting with the affected community, meeting with those who have submitted NOIs and start the NOI evaluation process. We have met all necessary timeline requirements including establishment of our LRA, DoD/OEA recognition, placement of advertisements, solicitation, acceptance of NOI, and quarterly grant updates.

The request for an extension is due primarily to our desire to carefully select a consultant who was 1) very experienced with the BRAC process, 2) find a consultant who successfully completed other BRAC projects, as the Reading LRA needs guidance as it fully investigates the highest and best use of the Reserve Center and gives complete consideration to the NOIs submitted so that we can truly meet the unmet homelessness needs in our community. The consultant was brought on board in early January 2009. The Reading LRA is deeply grateful that the federal government provided us with a grant to assist us with this project as the majority of this work is beyond the capacity of City staff. The extension until the June 30, 2009 will allow the consultant to complete the necessary reports and conduct due diligence, ultimately allowing the Reading LRA to prepare the best redevelopment plan and homeless assistance plan thus allowing all parties to realize the intent of this worthwhile endeavor. A copy of the revised timeline is attached for your review.

The Reading LRA sincerely appreciates your consideration of the requested extension. The cooperation we have received from our OEA project manager and Navy realty specialist has been truly outstanding. They have made themselves fully available to help us with various questions and problems that have occurred through the process.

Sincerely,
City of Reading

Linda A. Kelleher, CMC
City Clerk

C: Reading LRA, Managing Director, Solicitor, Swiger Consulting Team, OEA Project Manager



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